



Mississippi Works: **WIOA** Newsletter

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This newsletter will provide weekly updates regarding Mississippi's WIOA planning process. Our state will be an early implementer and will submit a combined plan by the end of September

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) of 2014 is a comprehensive law that expands existing workforce partners and requires greater coordination and alignment between workforce entities. Although the law has been passed, regulations are still being finalized by the U.S. Departments of Labor and Education. Because additional guidance was given by the U.S. Department of Labor late last week, our timeline will be revised as a result. As we make the necessary revisions to our plan to comply with the new regulations, agency partners now have the opportunity to provide additional feedback to the draft as we work to fine-tune Mississippi's plan. To continue to make the planning process transparent, the third public forum has been postponed to allow more time for the public to review the revisions to the plan and provide meaningful feedback. Our WIOA plan will now be submitted in late September, still keeping our early implementer status. Please contact James Williams at 601-321-6046 or jwilliams@swdb-ms.org with questions and comments.

Weekly Update

On Tuesday, August 11, the Planning and Communication Workgroup met to see the first draft of the WIOA plan. The meeting was led by James Williams, executive director of the State Workforce Development Board. The goal of the meeting was to give an overview of the plan and address any immediate concerns from agency partners. Committee members will have the opportunity to review the plan in its entirety and provide feedback by Monday, August 17. After the draft is reviewed by the Planning and Communications Workgroup and revisions are made, the document will be ready for the public comment. Once the public has the opportunity to make comments, there will be a third and final public hearing. The Planning and Communication Workgroup stressed the importance of transparency throughout the process and is eager to see the benefits of a better aligned and coordinated workforce system that raises the skill levels of Mississippi's future workers.



James Williams, executive director of the State Workforce Development Board, discussing the status of Mississippi's WIOA plan.

Timeline

SWIB Meeting and 3rd Public Forum

Details TBD

**In addition, WIOA Planning Meetings are held every Friday at 10 a.m. at NSPARC on the campus of Mississippi State University.*

Contact

For more information, visit the WIOA tab at <http://swib.ms.gov/>.

Questions? Contact James Williams at 601-321-6046 or jwilliams@swdb-ms.org.